

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – 5 YEARS CERTIFICATE**  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the Early Childhood teaching certificate or the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Cross-Categorical, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Orthopedic / Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ **PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – 5 YEARS CERTIFICATE**

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.*

Requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. One of the following:
  - A. A photocopy of your valid Arizona **IVP** fingerprint card (plastic) issued on or after January 1, 2008.  
-OR-
  - B. A photocopy of your valid Arizona fingerprint clearance card (plastic) issued prior to January 1, 2008.  
**NOTE:** Effective January 1, 2008, per Arizona State Statute A.R.S. § 15-106, an applicant who applies for a teaching certificate shall submit an **Identity Verified Prints (IVP)** Fingerprint card. "Non-IVP" Arizona fingerprint clearance cards issued on or after January 1, 2008 will **NOT** be accepted.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C:
  - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood special education from an accredited institution.  
-OR-
  - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution and 8 semester hours of practicum in early childhood special education.
    - Education courses shall include: 1. Child development and learning; 2. Language development; 3. Social and emotional development; 4. Curriculum development and implementation; 5. Assessment and evaluation, early childhood special education; and 6. Electives (if needed).
    - **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience in the area of early childhood special education may substitute for the 8 semester hours of practicum. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
  - OR-
  - C. A valid Early Childhood Special Education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.  
**One of the following:**
  - A. A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
  - B. A passing score on a comparable Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency.
    - All score reports must have the word "Passed" on it.
    - Test scores older than 10 years **WILL NOT** be accepted.
    - Submit the original score report at time of application.
  - C. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - D. Three (3) years of full-time teaching early childhood special education, birth - 5 years. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education Exam.  
**One of the following:**
  - A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education (23) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).

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- B. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education examination from another state or agency.
    - All score reports must have the word “Passed” on it.
    - Test scores older than 10 years *WILL NOT* be accepted.
    - Submit the original score report at time of application.
  - C. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - D. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Special Education.
8. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Provisional SEI endorsement. Option A if certified before August 31, 2006. Option B if certified on or after August 31, 2006:
- A. Verification of one (1) semester hour or fifteen (15) clock hours of state approved SEI training.
  - B. Verification of three (3) semester hours or forty-five (45) clock hours of state approved SEI training.

**NOTE:** The Provisional SEI endorsement is valid for three years. An additional three semester hours of state approved SEI training will be required to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.

*Individuals who hold an Arizona Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement. The requirement for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.*

9. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).
10. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

**NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).

➤ **STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – 5 YEARS CERTIFICATE**

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.*

Requirements for the Standard Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

- 1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
- 2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
- 3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.

**NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
- 4. One of the following:
  - A. A photocopy of your valid Arizona **IVP** Fingerprint Card (plastic) issued on or after January 1, 2008.
  - OR -
  - B. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued prior to January 1, 2008.

**NOTE:** Effective January 1, 2008, per Arizona State Statute A.R.S. § 15-106, an applicant who applies for a teaching certificate shall submit an **Identity Verified Prints (IVP)** Fingerprint Card. "Non-IVP" Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Cards issued on or after January 1, 2008 will **NOT** be accepted.